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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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SUBJECT Radium and Radioactive Elements

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1. In 1944 the Germans confiscated all the radium they could find in Hungary, from the hospitals, university, etc. As a result, the Eotvoes Lorand University did not have any radioactive preparations for laboratory work. In 1949 Dr Erdey-Gruz, Director of the Physical Chemistry Institute, wrote to the Curie Institute which sent him radium preparations for use in laboratory instruction. In the summer of 1949 or 1950, UNESCO also gave the University radioactive preparations. In 1950 the Physical Chemistry Institute prepared a neutron source for the Central Physics Research Institute. Only one tube, three inches long and one inch in diameter, was produced. The glass tube containing the neutron source was encased in a paraffin tube, 6x6x6 cm.
2. There was talk in 1951 that radioactive elements had been discovered in Hungary. No one seemed to know the location; such a discovery would naturally be considered a military secret. In this connection, a broadcast on Radio Budapest in March 1952 may be significant. The broadcast stated that the Kossuth prize had been awarded to two geologists: Dr Elemer Vadász, Director of the Geology and Mineralogy Institute of the Eotvoes Lorand University; and Dr Elemer Szadeczky-Kardoss, professor of mineralogy. The prizes amounted to 20 thousand forints each. It is also interesting that a 10 thousand forint prize was awarded to Dr Sandor Szalay, Director of the Physical Chemistry Institute of the University of Debrecen; he was doing research in radioactivity.

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3. The atomic bomb was not discussed in detail around the University. In 1945 or 1946, the British Consulate invited students of the University to attend the showing of an English film on the atomic bomb. In 1951 the newspapers reported that Danilov, a Russian engineer had used an atomic explosion to change the course of a river for irrigation purposes. The Hungarians learned via the "grapevine" that the explosion was premature and an accident. Since Hungarian newspapers do such a bad job of reporting the news, the "grapevine" is well developed and therefore [redacted] credence in the "accident" report.

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4. [redacted]

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The Eoetvoes Lorand

University did have several cloud chambers, some 50 cm in diameter.

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